

Marking US Entry to World War I

**President Woodrow Wilson challenged the Nation
“to build a thousand boats in 18 months”**

Mallows Bay is **the final resting place and the largest extant collection of steamship remains** – more than 100 vessels -- built for the World War I U.S. Shipping Board Emergency Fleet. These ships, constructed in 58 shipyards in 16 States, were part of a massive national wartime program that made the United States, for the first time in history, **the greatest shipbuilding nation in the world.**



The grounded fleet in Mallows Bay, 1925



This massive effort played a critical role in the establishment of the U.S. Merchant Marine, providing vessels for the USMM at sea training programs on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts.



Mallows Bay – Potomac River A National Maritime Treasure

- Site of the largest and most varied assemblage of historic shipwrecks in the US covering three centuries of American history.
- Site of a British, Virginia and Maryland land-sea skirmish during the American Revolution;
- Site of Pre-Civil War steamboat landings,
- Site of camp sites and batteries of Sickles Brigade of General Hooker's 20,000 Union troops of occupation;
- Contains remains of the Confederate blockade-runner *T.W. Riley*,
- Site of the 1859 Cooke's Ferry, a transfer point for Confederate smuggling during the Civil War;
- Site of the first Langley heavier than air flight tests;
- Contains remains of the last Kiptopeake car ferry, *Accomac*, replaced in service by the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel
- Served as President Calvin Coolidge's favorite duck hunting and fishing grounds;



Credit: Cyrus Phillips

Recognized on the National Register of Historic Places in 2015 for its special historical, cultural and archaeological significance



A Rich And Ancient Heritage

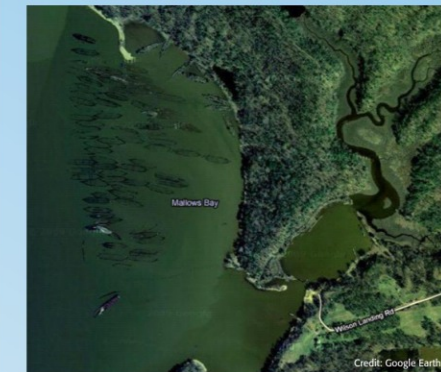
Site of some of the oldest Native American cultures in this region dating 12,000 years ago and ranging to the time of first contact and European settlement



Credit: Susan Langley

Located in the heart of traditional lands of the Piscataway peoples and the earliest Native American presence dating back 12,000 years

African-American presence on-site evident in 1640s and in shipyard industries throughout the country that were engaged in building many of the vessels now resting in Mallows Bay



Credit: Google Earth

Remnants of 19th and 20th century fishing industries including a sturgeon fishery and caviar processing, pound netting and net tarring